

# **Are Young Americans Better Off Than They Were 4 Years Ago?**

- **Today 13.3% of young Americans are unemployed, up 3.7% since 2000**
- **The number of unemployed college graduates has DOUBLED from 600,000 to 1.2 million in the past 4 years**
- **In the past 4 years, the number of unemployed college graduates surpassed that of unemployed high-school dropouts**
- **During the Bush Administration, college tuition has increased by 28%**
  - **Tuition and fees at 4 year public institutions have increased 35%**
  - **Tuition and fees at public 2 year institutions have increased 16%**
- **In 2003, tuition and fees increased in 49 of 50 states**
- **Four years ago, President Bush promised to increase Pell Grants to \$5,100. For the past four years the President and Congressional Republicans have frozen or cut the maximum Pell Grant award**
- **Due to the Republican inaction of the past 4 years on Pell Grants, the purchasing power of the Pell is now the weakest it has been in 30 years**
- **This year, 400,000 qualified high school graduates won't attend a four year college because of financial barriers and 220,000 won't attend college at all**
- **Today 30% of young Americans are uninsured, up 8% since 2000. Due to this rise, more than half of all young adults living in poverty are without health insurance**